(2)

LETTERS

ON THE

GOUT.

WRITTEN BY MR. EMERIGON,

PROCOREUR TO THE KING, AT THE GENERAL SEAT OF THE ADMIRALTY,

AND IN THE

ROYAL JURISDICTION

OF THE

TOWN OF ST. PETER'S,

IN THE

ISLAND OF MARTINICO.

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To the PUBLIC.

A Gentleman of this city, of the firſt reputation, from a humane regard to his fellow-creatures, put theſe letters into my hands, in order that the radical cure of that moſt excruciating complaint, the GOUT, ſhould be made as general as poſſible.

The *EDITOR.*

LETTERS

ON THE

GOUT.

LETTER I.

To Monſ. the COUNT DE NOZIORRES,

St. Peter's, Martinico, 8th Feb. 1776.

SIR,

THIS is the relation you deſire of my gout, and my ſuppoſed cure.

The diſorder is not hereditary to me, I perceived the firſt approaches of it in the year 1767, aged at the time about fifty-five years. The frequent pains which circulated in my feet, knees, and hands, were the fore-warners of it, I did not believe it, but a characteriſtic attack

which happened me in the year 1769, convinced me that it was really gouty: This attack was followed by many others, often many in the year, and always longer and more violent.

Both one and the other foot, the knees, and hands, were attacked ſometimes ſeparately, and ſometimes together.

My laſt fit was in September, 1774, which was the ſevereſt, the fit was general, and for more than two months I ſuffered inexpreſſible pains.

Fomentations and cataplaſms of every kind were made uſe of during the creſis in vain, I did not receive the leaſt relief from them. I was deſirous to know the cauſe of this diſorder; ſad conſolation! The doctors both antient and modern, told me, that the gout is an unconquerable diſorder, that its nature is unknown, that it is the ſovereign miſtreſs of pains, that they could not tame it by violence, that it becomes more formidable by oppoſition, that all the means they could employ, to ſoften or vanquiſh it, would only ſerve to irritate and prolong it, to diſlodge it, and make it aſcend. In ſhort that the beſt remedy during the pain, was the pain itſelf.

They

They aſſured me however, that an old gouty perſon, deprived of the uſe of all his members for more than five years, had been radically cured by a remedy, of which he had the receipt from a Carribbee Indian.

I verified the fact; and certain of this cure, I made haſte to uſe the ſame remedy, of which I have proved the ſalutary effects.

The following is the compoſition:

Infuſe in a bottle containing about three pints of rum, two ounces of gum guayac, pounded; expoſe this bottle, well cork'd, to the ſun for ſeven or eight days, turn it round, and ſhake the liquor from time to time to diſſolve the gum more eaſily; obſerve not to fill the bottle entirely, leſt the fermentation ſhould burſt it. Strain this liquor thro' ſome fine cotton or ſoft paper; put it into ſome common bottles, cloſely cork'd; when it is convenient make your ſtock, for the longer it is kept the better. The doſe is a table ſpoonful, to be taken every morning faſting, the taſte is not agreeable, but you will accuſtom yourſelf to it by habit; you muſt make uſe

of

of rum, for brandy will not produce the ſame effect.

I began the uſe of this medicine in November, 1774, my limbs which remained a long time weak and debilitated after the fit, recovered immediately their force and vigour, the lumps which were formed on almoſt all the joints of my hands and feet, diſperſed by little and little, either by the effect of the medicine, or by the application of white ſoap. The play of the articulations is perfectly re-eſtabliſhed, I have now only two ſlight lumps, which don't increaſe but daily leſſen; I do not perceive thoſe flying pains which tormented me, and which threatened a new attack, and for about fifteen months paſt, I have enjoyed a health, which I have been deprived of for ſeven or eight years ſucceſſively; the daily uſe I made of this medicine proved me another advantage; clammineſs of the mouth, belchings, ſourneſs of the palate, fullneſs, and an exceſſive phlegm, obliged me from time to time to have recourſe to bleeding and purgatives; theſe inconveniences are removed, and my ſtomach performs its functions with eaſe and without aſſiſtance.

I have

I have reaſon to believe that this liquor has the virtue to break and divide the gouty humour, to hinder its accumulating and fixing itſelf; and to aſſiſt its evacuation, either by expectoration which is exceſſive after having taken the doſe, or by producing the effect of a light purge.

I am not however intirely ſatisfied: Many gouty perſons have too ſtrenuouſly extolled medicines, which have only procured them a reſpite, but if the preſent year paſſes over, without my finding any return of the gout, I ſhall believe myſelf radically cured.

As to regimen this is what I have obſerved.

I fly from all great entertainments and all ſorts of exceſs; one or two hours after taking the doſe, I breakfaſt on milk; I dine frugally, but without any choice of food; fat or lean, freſh, ſalt or ſpiced, cold or hot, my ſtomach agrees with them, provided it is not over-charged. I don't ſup, or very little; water and old claret make my entire drink; I go to bed about ten and riſe about five o'clock; I avoid baths, whether tepid or

cold, they occaſioned me two ſudden attacks of the gout; I avoid having my feet bath'd, two other attacks quickly followed it.

In favour of this remedy, and this regimen, I enjoy at the age of ſixty-four years a perfect health. What aſſiſtance, ſir, to humanity, if this remedy can extirpate the cruelleſt and moſt unſupportable of all evils.

I am, with reſpect, Sir,

(Signed)

EMERGION.

LETTER II.

In Anſwer to ſeveral GOUTY EUROPEANS.

St. Peter's, Martiniquo, 16th Aug. 1776.

THE letter under my name, inſerted in the public papers, certainly is not apocryphal. I believe you may have an entire

entire confidence in the remedy mentioned in that letter; I owe to it both my exiſtence, and the good health I enjoy, tho' ſixty four years old. It has been for me a true panacea, a languiſhing diſtemper, and for many years afterwards a ſlave to the gout; I don't at this day perceive the leaſt inconvenience. But whether this remedy will have the ſame ſucceſs in Europe, as in America, is a problem which experience alone muſt reſolve. I think, however, that the gout ought to proceed from the ſame principle and cauſe, in all thoſe who it afflicts; if this conjecture is juſt, the remedy ought to operate equally every where, provided it does not meet a complication of diſorders.

For to direct your confidence and eſtabliſh it on ſome reaſonable grounds, read in the *Dictionnaire Pharmacuetique*, in the edition, 1768, the article *Guayac*, extract of which you will find here.

" *Guayac* is ſudarific, opening, drying, " purifies the blood, fortifies the joints, " cures the gout, the ſciatic, the rheu- " matiſm, dropſy, cattarh, and other " diſorders which are occaſioned by " phlegm; the mucilaginous tartar,

" wind,

" wind, &c. Gum operates more " ſtrongly then bark or wood, it ought " to be choſen clean, bright, tranſpa- " rent, of a reddiſh brown colour, apt " to crumble, yielding much ſmell, very " agreeable when bruiſed, or when ſet " on the fire, of a ſharp taſte."

Since the publication of my letter, the greateſt part of the virtues attributed to this drug, have been verified here by different ſurprizing cures, particularly of thoſe diſorders which ariſe from phlegm, and I have reaſon to believe the gout is one of thoſe. I believe that I am the firſt perſon who has conſtantly uſed and ſtuck to this remedy. It is true that the receipt given me of it, yielded a liquor very loathſome, it was not filtered; the gum mix'd in too great a quantity: You muſt ſwallow the gum and the rum together.

The gouty perſons who had uſed it before we were not able to withſtand its violence, the ſharpneſs of this drink obliged them to quit it, they relapſed, and this diſcredited the remedy. They have ſince adapted my compoſition, and they no longer doubt of their cure.

I have

I have however had laſt month, a ſlight attack of the gout, but I was well pleaſed at it, it is a proof which I have made to know thoroughly, the properties of the gum and rum.

I had uſed it about ten months ſucceſſively: the ſucceſs had exceeded my expectations; I abſtained from it from the 1ſt of June to the 23d of July laſt, and obſerved carefully the reſult of this interruption. Nothing remarkable happened the firſt twenty days, but I perceived afterwards, my appetite decreaſed, and my ſtomach did not perform its functions with eaſe; head-aches, bad digeſtion, and other inconveniences, occaſioned by my phlegmatic habit returned. The 23d of July, I perceived a pain in the anclebone of my left leg, which encreaſed that night with a ſwelling, redneſs, and burning heat; without employing any exterious remedy I had recourſe to my medicine, of which I took two ſtrong doſes for three days, one in the morning, the other in the evening; they occaſioned an ample evacuation, the fourth day the diſorder was almoſt diſperſed, the fifth I perceived no more pain, and immediately my ſtomach

mach was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed by taking my daily doſe.

Every thing I have told you is well known here, I have certainly no motive to exagerate the merits of this remedy, it is the good of humanity alone which engages me to publiſh its efficacies and virtues.

After the laſt proof I have made of it, I conſider it as a daily food, neceſſary to be taken by gouty perſons, to inſure them a ſolid and permanent cure.

The fixing the doſe is not reſtricted, it may be augmented or diminiſhed, according to the habit of body of the ſick perſon, and according to the effects it produces; there is even no inconvenience in reducing it, when the cure is eſtabliſhed, but on the leaſt embarraſſment in the ſtomach, you muſt for ſome days return to the entire doſe, and even exceed it, until it acts as a light purge.

The uſe of Rum appears to me indiſpenſible; this liquor which is extracted from ſugar, poſſeſſes as they alledge, ſome balſamick qualities which are not to be found in brandy.

Rum is always preferred, for it is a vehicle more ſtrong, more powerful

and

and more active. The boiled milk which I continue to take two hours after the doſe, is a ſoftening corrector, which I think neceſſary.

I offer up the moſt ardent and ſincere wiſhes, that this remedy may be favourable to you : I have learned you the ſucceſs of it with ſatisfaction ; how happy ſhould I be, if I could make my cure common to all the martyrs to this infernal diſtemper.

(Signed)

EMERIGON.

LETTER III.

To Mr. EMERIGON, Advocate at *MARSEILLES.*

St. Peter's, Martinico, Jan. 18, 1777.

SIR,

YOUR gouty perſons, my dear brother, need not fear importuning me, I ſhall anſwer with pleaſure all the new queſtions or doubts which they deſire you

you to propoſe ; my moſt flattering wiſh is to be able to participate with them the ineſtimable bleſſing I owe to Providence. You may aſſure them I continue to enjoy a perfect health ; this is really the caſe known by the public, admired by all thoſe who have ſeen me in the moſt dreadful ſituation, under the torments of this moſt afflicting diſorder.

Let not the heat of this remedy, or the little inconveniencies it may occaſion at firſt taking, prevent you, if any diſadvantages could reſult from it, I ſhould have perceived them during the courſe of two years that I have taken this medicine. It muſt neceſſarily act with ſome force to unroot and abſorb the ſeeds of the gout.

You muſt be exact in taking the doſe, at leaſt, till after the periodical time of the fit, and you muſt ſubmit to the regemin which all ſick perſons ought to obſerve, and ſpeedily you will be delivered from an evil which has proved the fortitude of the greateſt of ſtoical ſect. You need not make the leaſt difficulty in this remedy during the violence of the fit. When I began to uſe it in November, 1774, I was in the pains, and unable to move, I have reaſon to believe it accelerated

erated the criſis, the moſt ſenſible effect was, that I did not find that extreme weakneſs which I had experienced after the former fits, and that I was much ſooner re-eſtabliſhed.

I had imagined that it was neceſſary, even after the cure, to perſevere in the daily uſe of this remedy; but new proofs have taught me that once the gouty humour is expelled, it need not be uſed; but to prevent a new collection of this humour, which would not require the ſame practice of it; in conſequence of this, I allowed by degrees, intervals between the doſes, till I at laſt reduced them to *two* in the week; they operated as uſual, produced a light purge, without irritation, without ſtraining, without pain, which was ſufficent to hinder the humour from accumulating, and to remove all kind of inconvenience.

The white ſoap which I mentioned in my firſt letter, contributed to deſtroy and diſperſe the lumps which the gout left on my joints, of which the conſequences are ſo dreadful.

This is the method of uſing it:

Melt it and make plaiſters of it, which lay to the lumps: I put it into gloves and ſocks, which I ſlept in, and which ſucceeded very well, but the concurrence of the remedy is neceſſary, without which the ſoap will produce no effect. I am not the only perſon in this country whom this remedy has favoured; all thoſe who have continually uſed it, are radically cured.

I had intended to ſend you certificates of twelve gouty perſons cured, whom I know, when I received from Mr. Texier, merchant at Bourdeaux, the following letter.

Bourdeaux, October 24, 1779.

SIR,

I Have read with pleaſure in the Journal Linguits, the copy of a letter you wrote the 8th of February laſt, to the general of Martinico. Much attached to my old friend Mr. Goris, of the Chartron, I was impatient to communicate your letter, and to ſupply him with ſome

of

of your excellent old Rum, of Martinico, of which we compoſed in June laſt ſome bottles of the remedy; he began by trying the experiment on Mr. Dubois, his neighbour, who had been a long time confined to his houſe with the gout. The remedy opperated pretty ſpeedily, and Mr. Goris had the ſatisfaction to ſee Mr. Dubois come to him to thank him; this determined him to make uſe of the ſame remedy himſelf, which very ſpeedily put him in a condition to move, tho' by the violent attacks he had had the winter before, he was apprehenſive of being condemned to keep his chamber the remainder of his life. He never ceaſes to thank me, and acknowledge his obligations to you, for having enabled me to inform him of this remedy.

This ſucceſs has induced me to make (of ſome old Rum which I had left) ſome bottles of it, in order to diſtribute it to poor gouty perſons, who ſhould have faith in the medicine, and to increaſe their confidence, and become more uſeful, I take the liberty of requeſting you will inform me whether your cure ſtill continues, and if you know of any other perſons who have been cured.

I hope in conſideration of the motives from which I act, you will excuſe the liberty I take, and that you will add to this goodneſs, that of enabling me to compoſe, of the beſt rum and gum you can procure, twenty-five or thirty bottles of this remedy.

(Signed)

PETER TEXIER.

The ſpeedy cure of two gouty perſons mentioned in this letter will be ſufficient, I think, to eſtabliſh a general and entire confidence in the operation of this remedy, particularly as it removes the doubts formed about the difference of climate.

Ever ſince I have uſed this remedy, I have always imagined that it would produce the ſame effects throughout; and I alſo believe the heat of it to be more ſupportable in Europe than under the Torrid Zone. The power of this remedy is not alone confined to the gout, it yields to others very eſſential ſervices, as appears by the following certificate.

" I the

"I the undernamed ſurgeon to his "Serene Higneſs the Lord Admiral, de- "clare, that I have attended Mr. Emer- "igon, procoreus to the king, in different "fits of the gout, the laſt of which was the "end of the longeſt, and moſt violent, a- "bout the year 1774, which gave me an "opportunity of obſerving the effects of "the Anti-Gout, which he made uſe of. "I have reaſon to believe this remedy is "the ſpecific, which phyſic has been ſo "many ages in vain in ſearch of for gouty "perſons, and thoſe full of bad hu- "mours; the cure of thoſe have given "a convincing proof of its efficacy."

It operates equally againſt the Sciatica, the Rheumatiſm, the Catarrh, and other diſorders which ariſe from phlegm, as from my own knowledge many perſons a long time afflicted with theſe diſorders have been cured by this remedy, without any return of them. In teſtimony of which, I have given the preſent certificate at St. Peter's, Martinico, this 15th of January, 1777.

(Signed)

LOUSTAUE.

Tho'

Tho' this remedy appears violent, I know in this town ſeveral ladies of a delicate temperement, who have long uſed it without finding the leaſt inconvenience.

One of theſe ladies who had uſed it with ſucceſs againſt a violent phlegm, has been agreeably ſurprized to find a wenn, which ſhe had on her eye, and which had reſiſted all other remedies, entirely melt away and diſſipate: ſhe told me that all her former child-bearings had been dreadful, that her laſt had been the eaſieſt, and that ſhe had attributed it to the uſe of this remedy, which ſhe has continued when with child, and ſtill uſes with advantage, tho' a Nurſe. A gouty perſon, who had taken it for the gout only, had the ſatisfaction to be cured, and to find an old and large wenn which he had on his cheek, diminiſh daily, in ſuch a manner that he has reaſon to hope to be in a ſhort time entirely freed from it.

Cholics of all ſorts, and the moſt inveterate ulcers have been cured by this remedy; many of the inhabitants uſe it very ſucceſsfully for their negroes, when attacked

attacked with a diſorder called here the diſorder of the ſtomach, or diſſolution of the blood.

In ſhort, I can declare in its favour, that after having been a long time valetudinary, after having experienced all the rigour of the gout, I re-unite at ſixty-five years old, almoſt all the attributes of youth; vigour, good looks, agility, good appetite, eaſy digeſtion, ſoft and tranquil ſleep, with the hopes of long enjoying theſe advantages, and being exempt from the infirmities of old age.

I believe my dear brother, I have ſatisfied all your queſtions, if there ſhould ariſe among you gouty perſons, any new doubts, they may make them known to me; I have infinite pleaſure in employing myſelf on ſo intereſting an object, and from which humanity may derive ſuch great advantages. When I patronize this remedy, of which I have manifeſted the excellent qualities, when I do every thing to give it credit, and to convince the moſt credulous and fearful, I think that I only in part aquit myſelf towards the Supreme being; that I render homage to his

his goodneſs, and that I pay to him only a juſt tribute of my acknowledgments.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EMERIGON.

Proper to be printed.

(Signed) the Preſident,

TASCHER.

THE END.